THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-Eastern region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines. Further, it is reiterated that no airlines has requested Airports Authority of India (AAI) for operation of scheduled flight through Kanpur Airport.

Aviation Disaster near Mumbai

436. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major aviation disaster involving three scheduled passenger airlines was averted 100 nautical miles north east of Mumbai on the night of September 23, 2004;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all the three planes were one above the other and appeared as as single radar position symbol on the radar screen;

(c) if so, whether any enquiry has been ordered in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The matter is under investigation of Director General of Civil Aviation.

Revision of Air Fare

437. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI MURLI DEORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether airlines in India have decided to increase air fares and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the air fares in India are three times more than elsewhere in the world and if so, the reasons therefor;